

KS3 RE Knowledge Organiser - Year 9 - Topic: Medical Ethics

Key questions <ul style="list-style-type: none">• When does life begin?• What does the UK law say about abortion?• Should abortion be considered the same as murder?• What does the Bible say about abortion?• Is an embryo as valuable as a baby?• Is IVF worthwhile? Is it better than adoption?• Does IVF lead to murder?	Key words <p>Abortion Terminate Termination Pregnancy Conception Viability Pro-life</p>	Pro-choice Womb Murder Neighbour Sacred Compassionate Fertilisation Fertilised Artificial	Designer Genetic Engineering Saviour
Key concepts <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The beginning of life is hard to define: Is it at the moment of conception? Is it when the heart beats? The lungs 'breathe'? The baby is born? The beginning of life determines whether terminating (ending) a pregnancy would be considered as a form of murder• In the UK, abortion is legal as long as the foetus (unborn baby) is less than 24 weeks (6 months) old. Then, 2 doctors must agree that having the baby would be worse mentally or physically for the mother than not having the baby. In reality, abortion is declined only on extremely rare occasions• For Catholic Christians, life begins at conception because the Bible says: "Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you." This shows that God has always known our personality and qualities from conception. Therefore, for Catholics, abortion is seen as murder. The Bible is very clear on murder in the 10 Commandments: "Do not commit murder."• For Protestant Christians like the Church of England, abortion is sinful, but is considered the lesser of two evils. That means that abortion is bad, but sometimes is less bad than having the baby! For example, if someone was raped, the abortion is bad but is better than having to give birth to a baby born from a rape. They argue that the Bible wants them to be compassionate and caring towards people: "Love your neighbour as yourself." If you didn't want a baby, would you want people to support you or say no to you?• 10% of the UK population can't have children natural; they are infertile. In vitro fertilisation (IVF) allows them to have a child by inserting a sperm into an egg in a petri dish. It is rarely successful, and if the NHS doesn't cover it, IVF can cost £5000 per attempt.• Catholics, because they believe life begins at conception, argue that IVF is wrong. Every attempt leads to embryos being destroyed, which they would see as murder. Also, it is unnatural and not the way God intended people to have children. They encourage people to adopt children who need loving parents.• Protestants, like the Church of England, accept IVF as helping people to have children is seen as a form of love and compassion.			